

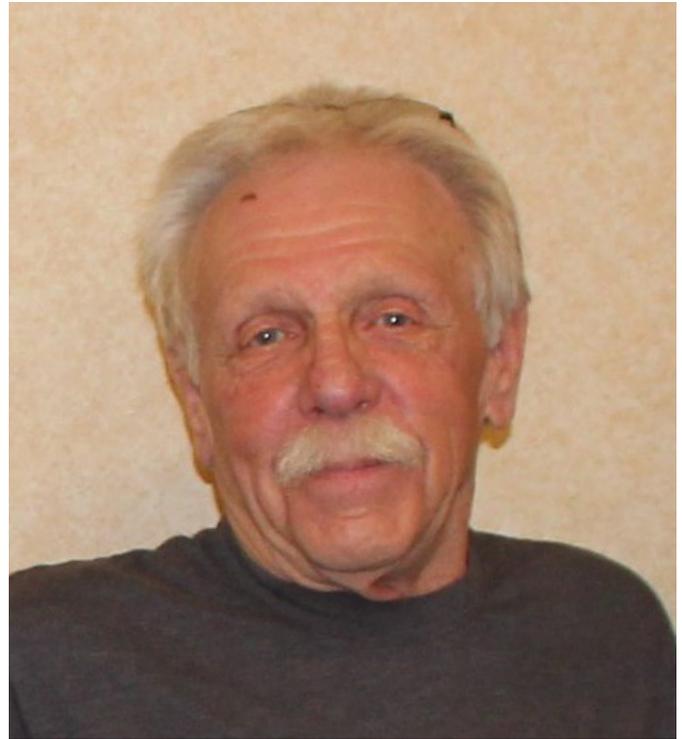
## In Memoriam: Douglas Berk

by M.P.B. Nicolas

After a difficult battle with cancer, Douglas Berk passed away in Winnipeg on November 18, 2019 at the age of 68. Doug was born in Russell, Manitoba on August 16, 1951. At a young age he moved to Winnipeg with his family and put down roots in St. Vital, where he would eventually raise his own family. He met his lifelong partner and wife Phyllis at work. Doug and Phyllis were married 35 years and had two sons, Daniel and Michael, whom Doug adored. Doug loved the outdoors, spending every summer at Big Whiteshell campground in southeastern Manitoba where he made many close friends and knew all the secret fishing spots. Doug enjoyed curling in his younger years and was an avid fisherman his whole life. Doug had a personality that was larger than life; he was friendly and could talk to anyone, making them feel at ease with his jokes, teasing and laughter.

Doug worked his entire career for the Manitoba Geological Survey (MGS); a career that lasted for 32 years from 1975 to 2007. He started as a Lab Technician and eventually rose to the position of Core Lab Manager. For many years, Doug spent summers on the diamond drill, cutting core all over Manitoba. He greatly enjoyed fieldwork which gave him the opportunity to travel all over the province, experiencing everything from Manitoba's breathtaking wilderness and lakes to the majestic splendor of polar bears in Churchill. During Doug's long career at the MGS core lab, he became a valuable resource and core "historian". Given the hundreds of cores he drilled and samples he saw, he could recall impressive details about many of them. He could often provide anecdotes, stories and weather reports about the day a core was drilled; recalling a particular event of the day or of that drilling season, or the student that was helping him that year. Underneath his tough exterior, he had a great fondness for everyone he worked with and he cared about them deeply; they were like family. Doug was always quick to volunteer when something needed to be done, and was a key contributor towards the success of both the annual Manitoba Mining and Minerals Convention and Provincial Mining Week events.

Always interested in geology and believing in the untapped mineral potential of Manitoba, Doug took on the



role of prospector with his company White Cap Exploration after his retirement. He enjoyed the thrill of the mineral hunt and tackled his property with excitement and passion. This excitement, paired with his ability to connect with people and communities, was paid back in lasting friendships, respect and trust from all those who had the pleasure of working with him.

I had the benefit of working with Doug when I was a university student and for years as a colleague after joining the Government of Manitoba. He always went above and beyond to help me, or anyone who asked for it. He always made me feel at ease, teasing me frequently; his laughter echoing in the core viewing room. To my horror, he would often joke that he would, one day, put a spider in my core box. I never did come across a spider, but I know that if I ever do come across one, I'll know who put it there.